

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The airfield was north of the Rakvere (26°22'E/59°22' N) railroad station, Estonian SSR. It was bordered by the Tallinn (24°45'E/59°26'N) - Narva (28°12'E/59°23'N) railroad line to the south and the Rakvere-Kunda (26°32'E/59°30'N) railroad line to the east. An asphalt or concrete runway was conspicuous from the road.
2. There were hangars at the field.
3. The airfield was occupied by single-engine fighters, Il-2 ground attack aircraft and biplanes.
4. The airfield was north of the Rakvere railroad station (see Annex). The landing field had a grass cover, part of which was being torn up and rolled with many tractors and rollers. The work was being done in strips beginning on the southeast edge. Aircraft took off and landed on the rolled section.

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No concrete runways or taxiways were seen. Perforated steel plates which could be interconnected were piled in front of the hangar on the southern edge of the field. An apron in front of the hangar was covered with such plates.

5. A hangar was under reconstruction, its 20 to 25 x 100-meter steel skeleton being completed. Just east of it were destroyed hangars on which no repair work was being done. Five or six cantonment buildings, some wooden radio masts and a radio truck were on the western edge of the field.
6. There was a fuel dump of two or three dug-in containers, each 10 to 12 meters in diameter and extending by about 2 meters above the ground. It was protected by earth walls, 2 meters high.
7. Sixty to seventy motor vehicles (trucks, tank trucks and tractors) were parked on a parking site.
8. The field was occupied by three or four IL-2s, three single-engine biplanes, one Ju-87, one Ju-52 and one He-111, the latter three partially destroyed.
9. A total of 150 to 200 twin-engine transports (silver-gray, US make) landed at the field on 2 August at short intervals. Men wearing leather suits got out of the planes, which then took off again.
10. Bombs in wooden crates, about 1 meter high, were being unloaded from a railroad car at the Rakvere railroad station and trucked away.

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Comment:

The report indicates the pin-point location and supplements previous information on the status of the Rakvere airfield. According to another report covering the Spring of 1949 the field was occupied by 40 to 50 IL-2s.

1 Annex: Rakvere Airfield.

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